U.S. Appln. No. 09/866,245
Reply to Final Office Action dated July 22, 2011

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 450100-03244

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method comprising the steps of:

receiving an input retrieval keyword;

accessing a dictionary database based on an input retrieval keyword,

wherein the dictionary database is stored in a data server whereby, by providing the dictionary database in the data server, the dictionary database is used in common, and accordingly, in a client having a small data storage capacity in a home server, a HDD recorder 400, or a PC, storage capacity is not occupied by the dictionary database, and

wherein when contents of the dictionary database are updated, maintenance of difference data does not need to be performed by the home server;

extracting at least one additional keyword from a dictionary database as a function of the input retrieval keyword,

wherein, when the input retrieval keyword is received in the receiving step, the at least one additional keyword is extracted from the dictionary database as a function of the input retrieval keyword in the extracting step, and

wherein the dictionary database stores frequently misspelled words as possible misspelled words, and

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wherein the at least one additional keyword may be extracted after replacing an improperly input keyword with a corrected keyword based on the stored frequently misspelled words; and

pre-designating one particular database from among a plurality of databases, including an electronic-program-guide database, a movie information database, and a drama information database,

wherein each of the plurality of databases are provided in separate data servers for distributed arrangements at different locations;

selecting a route to the one particular database via a routing server comprising: a storage unit for storing information on a path to each of the plurality of databases; and an access unit for accessing each of the plurality of databases;

searching electronic-program-guide data from the particular database that is pre-designated as a function of the input retrieval keyword and the at least one extracted additional keyword,

wherein, when the input retrieval keyword is input, relevant keywords, extracted by the dictionary database are sent to the routing server, and

wherein the routing server accesses one of the databases in a data server storing the particular database, storing desired data by selecting a route to the data server, whereby the desired data is obtained.

2-5. (Canceled)

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6. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein the input retrieval keyword and the at least one extracted additional keyword are interrelated to each other.

7. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when part of a word to be used as the input retrieval keyword is input, said word to be used as the input retrieval keyword and the at least one extracted additional keyword are extracted from a retrieval-keyword database storing previously input keywords in a predetermined order.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when a particular genre is relevant to cooking, a different genre is relevant to cooks.

10. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein when a particular genre is relevant to place names, a different genre is relevant to names of persons.

11. (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system comprising:

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a data server including an electronic-program-guide database storing program information of an electronic program guide;

a dictionary database for storing a plurality of retrieval keywords and a plurality of additional keywords relevant to said retrieval keywords,

wherein the dictionary database is stored in a data server whereby, by providing the dictionary database in the data server, the dictionary database is used in common, and accordingly, in a client having a small data storage capacity in a home server, a HDD recorder 400, or a PC, storage capacity is not occupied by the dictionary database, and

wherein when contents of the dictionary database are updated, maintenance of difference data does not need to be performed by the home server; and

a client module comprising:

an input unit for inputting said retrieval keywords;

an accessing unit for accessing said dictionary database as a function of said retrieval keywords and the plurality of additional keywords;

when receiving the input retrieval keyword, extracting means for extracting at least one additional keyword from the dictionary database as a function of the input retrieval keyword,

wherein, when the input retrieval keyword is input by the input means, the at least one additional keyword is extracted from the dictionary database as a function of the input retrieval keyword by the extracting means,

wherein the dictionary database stores frequently misspelled words as possible misspelled words, and

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wherein the at least one additional keyword may be extracted after replacing an improperly input keyword with a corrected keyword based on the stored frequently misspelled words;

a designating unit for pre-designating one particular database from among a plurality of databases, including an electronic-program-guide database, a movie information database, and a drama information database,

wherein each of the plurality of databases are provided in separate data servers for distributed arrangements at different locations;

a selecting unit for selecting a route to the particular database via a routing server comprising: a storage unit for storing information on a path to each of the plurality of databases; and an access unit for accessing each of the plurality of databases;

a searching unit for searching electronic-program-guide data from the one particular database that is pre-designated as a function of the input retrieval keyword and the at least one extracted additional keyword,

wherein, when the input retrieval keyword is input, relevant keywords, extracted by the dictionary database are sent to the routing server, and

wherein the routing server accesses one of the databases in a data server storing the particular database, storing desired data by selecting a route to the data server, whereby the desired data is obtained.

12. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database is provided at the client side.

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13. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said dictionary database is provided at the data server side.

14. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said client downloads and stores the program information.

15. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein said client accesses a necessary part of said data server via a routing server storing information on routes to the parts of said data server.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein previously input keywords are stored in a retrieval-keyword database , and the stored keywords are arranged in order of frequency of use.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system according to claim 11, wherein the program information includes data relevant to place names.

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22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An electronic-program-guide retrieval system comprising:

a data server including a plurality of databases, one of which is a television electronic-program-guide database for storing program information of an electronic program guide containing only keywords determined by an EPG provider as retrieval keywords;

a client having a certain data storage capacity comprising input means for inputting a retrieval keyword for retrieving the program information;

a dictionary database provided at the data server side and the client side for storing retrieval keywords and relevant keywords relevant to said retrieval keywords,

wherein the dictionary database is stored in a data server whereby, by providing the dictionary database in the data server, the dictionary database is used in common, and accordingly, in a client having a small data storage capacity in a home server, a HDD recorder 400, or a PC, storage capacity is not occupied by the dictionary database, and

wherein when contents of the dictionary database are updated, maintenance of difference data does not need to be performed by the home server,

a routing server having an access unit for accessing selectively said database and route information,

wherein when retrieval keyword is input, and relevant-keyword information relevant to the retrieval keyword input by said client is extracted from said dictionary database provided at the client side, said client sends the relevant-keyword to said routing server and the

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routing server accesses one of a plurality of databases, including an electronic-program-guide database, a movie information database, and a drama information database via said routing server storing information on routes to the parts of said data server,

wherein the dictionary database stores frequently misspelled words as possible misspelled words, and

wherein the at least one additional keyword may be extraetd after replacing an improperly input keyword with a corrected keyword based on the stored frequently misspelled words; and

wherein said routing server accesses the database by:

pre-designating one particular database from among a plurality of databases, including an electronic-program-guide database, a movie information database, and a drama information database,

wherein each of the plurality of databases are provided in separate data servers for distributed arrangements at different locations;

selecting a route to the particular database that is pre-selected via a routing server comprising: a storage unit for storing information on a path to each of the plurality of databases; and an access unit for accessing each of the plurality of databases;

searching electronic-program-guide data from the one particular database that is pre-designated as a function of the input retrieval keyword and the at least one extracted additional keyword,

wherein, when the input retrieval keyword is input, relevant keywords, extracted by the dictionary database are sent to the routing server, and

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wherein the routing server accesses one of the databases in a data server storing the particular database, storing desired data by selecting a route to the data server, whereby the desired data is obtained.

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